

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Maupin Substation Expansion and Control House Replacement

**Project Manager:** Debbie Staats – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Wasco County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 – Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

## **Description of the Proposed Action:**

BPA proposes to add a Power Control Assembly (PCA) building, and expand the switchyard at the Maupin substation to accommodate additional equipment to meet future needs, and replace old and outdated equipment within the existing switchyard. The substation would be expanded to the west of the existing yard. A new access road would be constructed along the west side of the expansion area to connect the existing entrance from Bakeoven Road to the existing access road to the north of the substation. The portion of the existing access road not covered by the substation expansion area would be scarified and revegetated to match the surrounding areas. A stormwater retention pond would be constructed on the southwest corner of the substation property. A temporary shoo-fly transmission line would be installed across Bakeoven Road to the south to bypass the substation and keep the transmission lines energized while work is taking place at the substation. Equipment used to perform this work may include a combination of dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, cranes, and work trucks. All disturbed areas outside the substation fenced areas would be restored at the end of the project.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 5, 2019

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

## Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

### Proposed Action: Maupin Substation Expansion and Control House Replacement

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#### Project Site Description

The proposed project would be conducted in and around the Maupin Substation on BPA-owned property, located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the town of Maupin, Oregon in the BPA Redmond District. The project area is flat rangeland with sagebrush ground cover. The land use in the surrounding area is also rangeland.

#### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area has been surveyed multiple times in the last several years. Four sites within one mile of the project area were identified in these surveys. However; no cultural resources were identified within the project area during any of the surveys. Much of the area has been previously disturbed by construction activities. The substation and existing control house has been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. No cultural resources were located within the current APE. The BPA Archaeologist determined that no additional archaeological surveys are needed due to the intensive surveys conducted in 2013 and 2014, and that substation expansion and construction of the PCA would result in no adverse affect to cultural resources. The SHPO concurred with this determination of no adverse effect on March 5, 2019. In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the contractor would stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation; and the appropriate local, state, and Federal agencies. The contractor would implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering and would take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
<p>2. <b>Geology and Soils</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Ground-disturbing activities proposed as part of this project would involve substation yard expansion, access road construction, retention pond construction, and some trenching. The topography of the areas is generally flat; therefore, proposed work would not significantly impact geology and soils.</p>		
<p>3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no Federal/state special-status plant species in or near the project area.</p>		
<p>4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status wildlife species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**  
(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: The project is located in a dry upland area. No in-water work is proposed for this project and there are no floodplains present within a mile of the proposed work area. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground-disturbing activities.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project area is in a dry upland area, with no shallow groundwater or aquifers. Yard expansion, structures, and trenching would not affect groundwater or aquifers.

8. **Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas**



Explanation: The land is currently used for range and transmission facilities. No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use. No specially-designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be minor changes to the visual quality of the area as a result of the substation expansion and new control house; however, there are existing BPA transmission line structures and other utility structures immediately adjacent to the project area with similar visual characteristics. No residences or other sensitive viewing areas are located near the project area. The expansion of the substation and the new control house building would not create a significant change to visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; small amounts of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some minor temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours as the project is being constructed. There are no residences or other sensitive areas nearby that would be disturbed by construction noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

### **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:



Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary: NA

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary: NA

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary: NA

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary: NA

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: All activities would take place on BPA-owned land within the Maupin substation property. BPA Realty would contact affected landowners.

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Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Doug Corkran  
Doug Corkran  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 5, 2019